

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 2000

LB 1115

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature and Senator Redfield, yes, I'm "The Terminator" this morning. I had mentioned that the "Christmas treeing" is an approach that I'm going to strenuously oppose this session. It is not unreasonable, in my opinion, and others can have their opinion about what constitutes a "Christmas tree", for a committee to have four bills that they would try to combine into a committee amendment. And Senator Jensen was willing to look through that long list of 16 bills and come up with 4, and I don't have objection to that. Here's what the body can do if they want to put me in my place and think my approach is wrong--reject Senator Jensen's amendment, keep the committee amendment with all 16 of those bills, then just beat down my opposition and add 16 bills to the...this bill by way of a committee amendment. And here's why I'm saying that. The body doesn't have to do what I say I think ought to be done, but I have thought through a position when I take it and I know what I will do to see that position prevail. And I'm always straightforward in letting the body know. Sometimes there is agreement initially. Sometimes I have to bludgeon and argue and argue, as was the case yesterday, before somebody who is respected here more than I am will stand up and say, well, Senator Chambers is right. Fortunately for me, Senator Wickersham did not remain snowed in until yesterday and on that bill which I spent so much time arguing a point on, he could stand up and put the USDA stamp of approval--Ernie's right. Then, all of a sudden there was a change throughout the community and we did the right thing. So I'm prepared to battle on each one of these issues when I think it's important enough. Senator Jensen mentioned that senators whose bills will not be included in this amendment, he said they can be amended into the bill. What he means is that an attempt can be made to amend them into the bill. And I will say this. I know he's a very kind, accommodating person, but if the bill takes on the appearance of a "Christmas tree" then I'm going to do what I can to kill the bill. Now, Senator Suttle asked why am I so opposed to this "Christmas treeing" concept. Toward the end of the session, the Governor, lobbyists and others bring all these bucket loads of stuff and dump them into the Legislature and they pressure senators to agree collectively to do these things, and I said I'm not going for that anymore and I'm going to do everything I can to stop it. So that's what it basically is